

**Abstract**

Methods and arrangements for virtual private network (VPN) data packets are disclosed. VPN packets include a payload having Internet Protocol (IP) addresses which guide the packet through a network to a security gateway. The payload may be encrypted and/or compressed and may include internal addresses to denote the real source and destination for a data portion of the payload. The destination security gateway for a packet includes a plurality of protocol modules, each for performing a different VPN protocol and a discriminator. As packets are received by the gateway, the discriminator responds to packet addressing information to selectively gate the packet to one or more protocol modules to gain access to the payload.